Depot Town Rag

FREE 100%

MARCH 1986
FOUNDATION, 8p.m., 6 March Thursday, in the Caboose

FINAL JAZZ CONCERT, 7p.m. 15 March, Saturday, in the Freight House

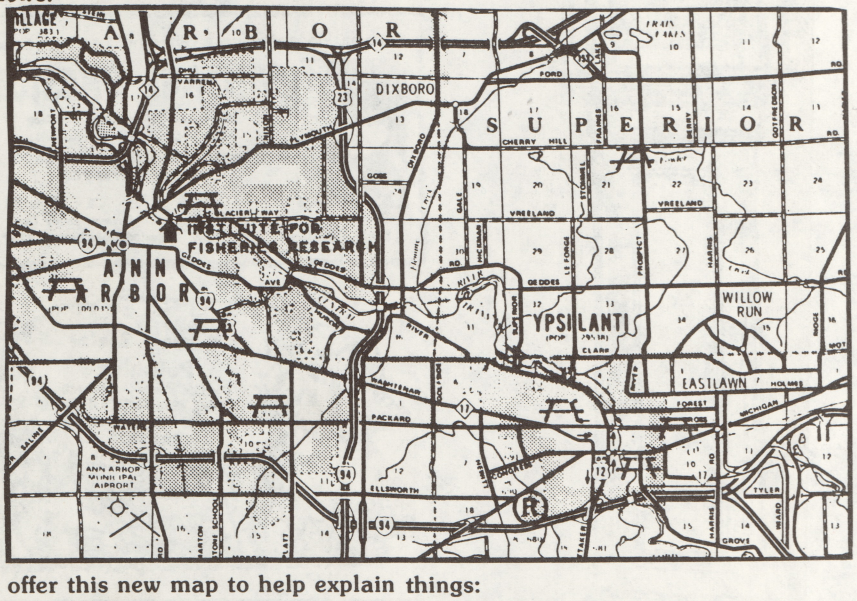
ASSOCIATION, 7:30p.m., 20 March, Thursday, in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

YPSI/ARBOR – More than Just a Bowling Alley?

Almost nobody teaches geography anymore. And that's unfortunate because the public's view of Ypsilanti would be drastically changed if the media had any idea where it was.

- Catherine McAuley Health Center and St. Joseph Hospital are not only on THIS side of US-23, but they're right across the street from the EMU staduim. Now, THAT'S Ypsilanti!
- But who gets the credit for the (Huron Valley Men's Facility) prison system? That complex is in Pittsfield Township, just south of Ann Arbor, but Detroit's TV broadcasters still refer to those new slammers as the 'Ypsilanti Prison Complex.'
- When policies permitted state hospitals to release patients by the bus-load to the closest municipality, Ypsi State's wards were delivered here. Even though Ann Arbor's city limits were closer, Ypsi's bus depot was closest.
- Ann Arbor's larger police budget may be able to filter their reports through a public information department, but last year's crime rate cannot be changed. Ypsilanti is now a safer place to live, but don't look for any headlines to that effect. Good news is no news.



We offer this new map to help explain things:

ANN ARBOR	YPSILANTI
City of Ann Arbor	City of Ypsilanti
Ann Arbor Township	Superior Township
Pittsfield Township	Ypsilanti Township
University of Michigan	Eastern Michigan University
Street Art Fair	Heritage Festival
U-M Hospital	Beyer Hospital
County Sheriff's Office	State Police Post
State Hospital and Prisons	St. Joe's Hospital
Kerrytown	Depot Town
Domino's Office	Domino's birthplace

THE BASE LINE CONCEPT:

When they laid out Michigan's system of townships (which made the state look like two mittens left on a waffle iron) they charted them from a point just north of the city of Jackson.

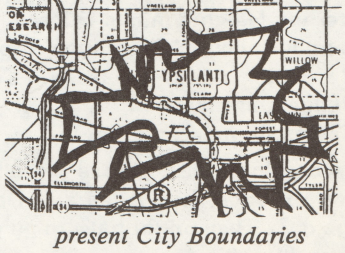
The east/west line from that point was called the 'Base Line' and it runs along the top of the state's southernmost counties. Many roads which follow tht route carry the same name (Eight Mile Road, between Wayne and Oakland Counties is often called 'Base Line Road.')

Everything in Michigan is measured from that Base Point. Ypsilanti is described as '7E-2S', or seven townships east, two townships south of the Base Point.

A MODEST PROPOSAL: A Superior Ypsilanti

(Here we print the unthinkable.) Everybody knows 'Greater Ypsilanti' will just be 'Ypsilanti' in another generation or so, but no one knows what has to happen today to move toward that eventuality. JYRO, YCUA and the Library didn't help much. Moving Ypsilanti one square closer (north) to the Base Line might be a good start.

Suppose (just suppose) that the townships of Superior and Ypsilanti were to merge into one rectangular municipality. They might just as well include that little city between them. After all, does this . . .



present City Boundaries

. . . make any kind of topographical sense?

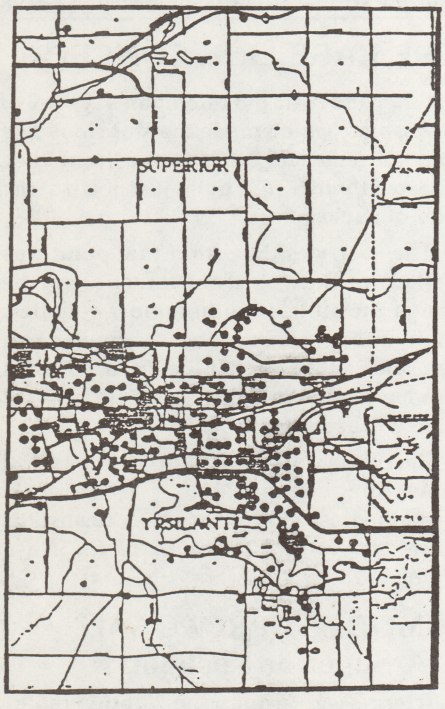
(We've already seen how difficult it is to

continued on page 2

continued from front page

suggest changing in the names of East and West Middle Schools. Anyone want to propose merging Ypsilanti, Lincoln and Willow Run school districts? Now, there's a project!)

As long as we are looking at maps, why not point out the population pattern of 'Greater Ypsilanti?' Notice how Superior Township is mostly rural, Ypsilanti Township is suburban and the City is urban. Imagine that populous all rolled together into one municipality. Here's what it would look like. A big rectangle (double square) on the map –



population map from Ypsi Futures' ICARD study

– Save the above map. Tuck it into the old family Bible. Some day it may be worth something.

Other Square Cities in Michigan which did not take a whole lot of creativity to define: Livonia, Taylor, Southgate, Roseville, and Fraser stand out easily on the map, due to their geometric regularity.

Some Square Cities who had problems and wound up with a hole in them:

- Farmington Hills minus Farmington
- Sterling Heights minus Utica
- Romulus minus Metropolitan Airport
- Westland minus Garden City, Wayne and Inkster
- Warren minus Centerline

Now what do we do? Worse yet, what will Pete Murdock, Ron Allen and Dave Rutledge do? They might have to go out and get *real* jobs!

Clearly, however, Depot Town is right at the center of things and is the logical place for the NEW CITY HALL!

DEPOT TOWNER GOES HOLLYWOOD

(ed. Can a nice Jewish girl from a small railroad district in the mid-west find happiness among the fast movers of the movie capital of the world?)

An exclusive interview with community theatre veteran Bonni Rosen-Fine has disclosed that on a recent trip to Hollywood she appeared on stage with Academy Award winning actor Richard Dreyfuss.

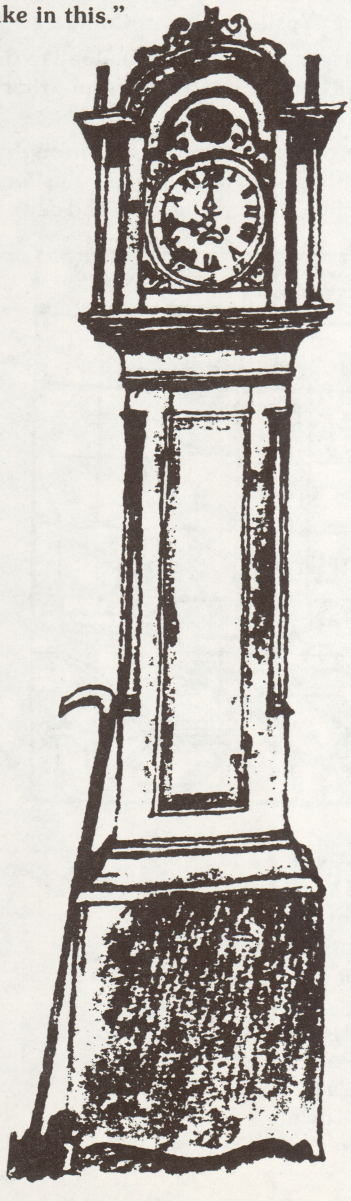
When pressed for details about this performance, Rosen-Fine revealed that she and husband Ed Fine saw the "explosive drama" THE NORMAL HEART in which Dreyfuss (Rosen-Fine's favorite actor) starred. "After the show the cast and director lead a spirited discussion group with some students and Ed and I sat in. When it was over, Dreyfuss was standing on the stage, so I walked up the stairs and introduced myself." Rosen-Fine continues, "It would be legitimate to say we even acted together - sort of a little improv - he acted very polite and I acted as if I was 13 years old."

Rosen-Fine, past president of the Ypsilanti Players adds this slightly suspicious appearance to her local stage credits which include 6 RMS RIV VU, MAJOR BARBARA, LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS and A FLEA IN HER EAR.

Of interest to local merchants might be Bonni's assessment of shopping Mecca, Rodeo Drive: "Very rooty-tooty and great selection, but Depot Town has more charm."

And a fashion note: "The women were all wearing what appeared to be white thermal long johns with over-sized tops. An amazing look."

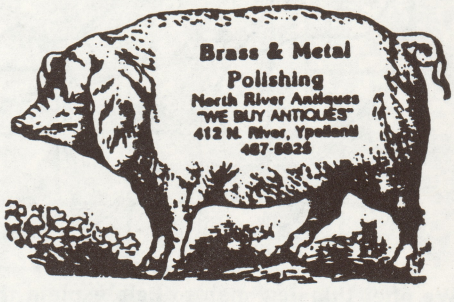
THE NORMAL HEART deals with the first few years of the AIDS epidemic and the tragedy that it was largely ignored because of political reasons. "I was naturally moved and angered by this play and I'm prompted to encourage RAG readers to write elected officials and demand more and more funding for AIDS research and services. This is a national health issue and regardless of your particular sexuality, you have a stake in this."



DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES
34 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Rrefinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

Specializing in Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry

VINTAGE PASSION
Antiques - Collectables - Art Deco
Vintage Clothing and Accessories
Tuesday – Saturday: 11:00 to 6:00
Sunday Noon to 5:00
32 E. Cross St.
Historic Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Owner
Linda J. Williams

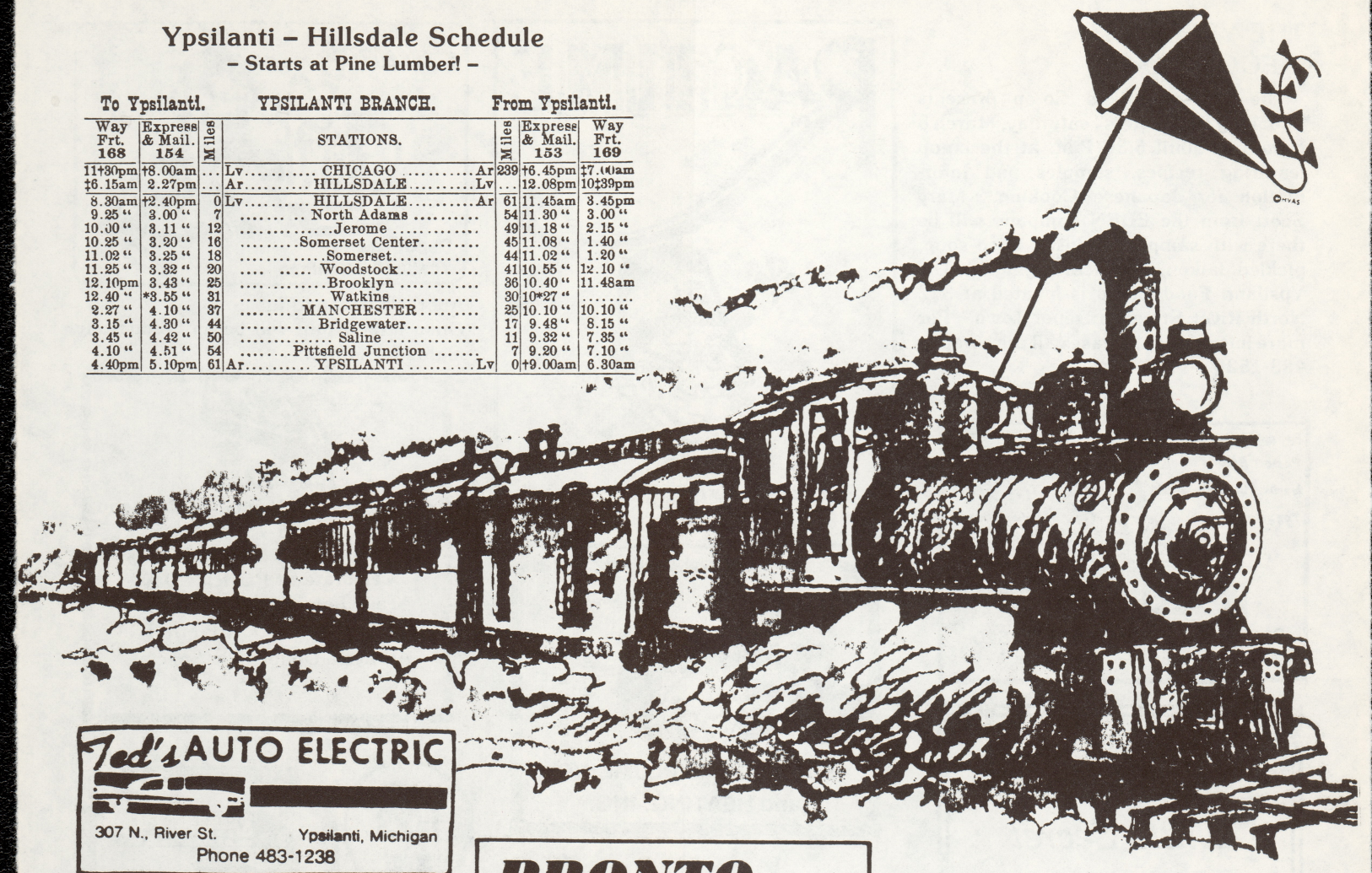


Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

Ypsilanti – Hillsdale Schedule

– Starts at Pine Lumber! –

To Ypsilanti. Way Frt. 168	To Ypsilanti. Express & Mail. 154	Miles	YPSILANTI BRANCH. STATIONS.	Miles	From Ypsilanti. Express & Mail. 153	From Ypsilanti. Way Frt. 169
11†30pm	†8.00am	...	Lv..... CHICAGO .....Ar	239	†6.45pm	‡7.00am
‡6.15am	2.27pm	...	Ar..... HILLSDALE Lv	...	12.08pm	10‡39pm
8.30am	†2.40pm	0	Lv..... HILLSDALE .....Ar	61	11.45am	3.45pm
9.25 "	3.00 "	7	.... North Adams	54	11.30 "	3.00 "
10.00 "	3.11 "	12	.....Jerome	49	11.18 "	2.15 "
10.25 "	3.20 "	16	.....Somerset Center.....	45	11.08 "	1.40 "
11.02 "	3.25 "	18	.....Somerset.....	44	11.02 "	1.20 "
11.25 "	3.32 "	20	.... Woodstock...	41	10.55 "	12.10 "
12.10pm	3.43 "	25	.....Brooklyn	36	10.40 "	11.48am
12.40 "	*3.55 "	31	..... Watkins	30	10*27 "	.....
2.27 "	4.10 "	37	..... MANCHESTER.....	25	10.10 "	10.10 "
3.15 "	4.30 "	44	..... Bridgewater.....	17	9.48 "	8.15 "
3.45 "	4.42 "	50	..... Saline	11	9.32 "	7.35 "
4.10 "	4.51 "	54	.....Pittsfield Junction	7	9.20 "	7.10 "
4.40pm	5.10pm	61	Ar..... YPSILANTI Lv	0	†9.00am	6.30am



Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC

307 N., River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan

Phone 483-1238

PRONTO

PIZZA & SUBS

37 E. CROSS . DEPOT TOWN

YPSILANTI

483-4555

SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2

Free Delivery

on orders over $4.00

Hon's

Flowers & Fancies

46 E. Cross • 482-2124

DEPOT TOWN, YPSILANTI

BIG BOB'S

MAGAZINE AND FANTASY EMPORIUM

50 East Cross

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

(313) 485-4930

Monday - Wednesday 11-6

Friday 11-7, Saturday 11-6, Sunday 10-2

CLOSED THURSDAY'S

Old Town

RESTAURANT

Home Cooked

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

Historic Depot Town

ADVERTISING in The Depot Town Rag is available to business enterprises from the environs of Depot Town (only) at the rate of nine dollars per month. Changes in copy may be made each month if desired, with new copy due on the third Thursday at the Caboose. Camera ready art may be included and may take a few days longer to set up. 1500 copies are distributed, free, throughout the area, while most are picked up in the block. The back page (Ragtime) features additional copy related to Depot Town businesses whether they are paid advertisers, or not. The cost of printing THE RAG is entirely supported by our advertisers.

CITY RADIATOR

110 N. River

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

483-2248

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market

in historic Depot Town

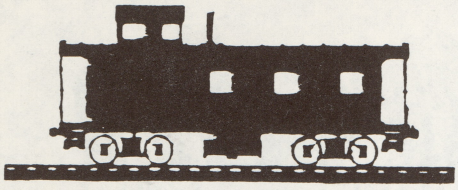
SIDETRACK

GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES

Located in historic Depot Town

56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti

483-1035



D.T.A. 20 FEBRUARY 1986

Minutes approved as read.

Treasury: $8097.72 Total, $2660.86 General Fund, (<$29.70) Rag, $4145.06 Jazz, $978.00 Caboose, $112.33 Halloween, (<$1197.24) Billboard, $201.47 Boomer Days. Rag and Billboard accounts are in the hole, Rex Richie is submitting a list of those owing and President MeKeever will contact them.

CABOOSE REPAIR: Van Mertz is waiting for a break in the weather to repair roof and windows, replace trim, paint interior.

JAZZ: Approximately $500 profit from February concert, some bills not in yet. Fifty under capacity. New bar crews worked well. Barb Lohr took over bar in Rex's absence. Final Concert is March 15. Special thanks to Don Boersma and his clean-up crew.

Visitors & Convention Bureau is nominating "Depot Town Jazz" for the Governor's tourism Award.

FALL FARM FAIR is set for Saturday October 4th according to Market Manager Gary Urick.

ALLEY PLATTING: City Manager Henessee has referred the matter of the City legally claiming the alley from Follett House to Aubree's parking lot to the City attorney. The City cannot penalize or post parking rules as the alley sits now, and the parking situation prohibits fire engines from passing through.

FOLLETT HOUSE BILLBOARD proposal has been submitted to the City for a 50% facade/sign grant.

INTERN: An up-to $400 scholarship for planning promotional events will be proposed to graduate students at EMU and UM. Carolyn McKeever will make contacts for a March report. Meanwhile, Jerry Meadows will formulate a marketing plan for the neighborhood.

ARTRAIN committees are well covered. Expenses of a second train for income will be presented at the March meeting. (See accompanying article.)

FARMERS' MARKET Festival displays are being coordinated by Shankwiler, Urick and Meadows. Meadows part will be "The Great Train Show," a departure from last year's theme.

CABOOSE ART: Gerry Post, a Rochester advertising and design artist, has sent photos of his study of the DTA Caboose and River Art Works will frame them for hanging in the Freight House with information on Caboose rental. The Caboose is rented out for a private party on March 1st for a fifteen dollar fee.

FOLLETT HOUSE CORNICE PLAN was presented. Plans include copper construction, no paint. See designs in Bicknell and Comstock's "Victorian Architecture"

RAG REPORT: Meadows will investigate a 'media broadcast' of the August DEPOT TOWN RAG through regional publications for August via information from C of C's Charles Kehler.

DIRECTORY REPRINT: Should we update and make a second printing? No businesses have requested more copies, but the Chamber of Commerce can hands out a great many. Carolyn will compare costs and propose in March.

FACADE GRANTS: Three Depot Towners were among the more than twenty who applied for City Facade Grants at the February 20th deadline. At least nine Depot Town fronts were represented.

DO AS WE SAY: The Caboose Valentine party did not come off as planned. We should provide back-up systems for such emergencies.

BEST YET AWARDS to Barbara Lohr for picking up the February Jazz bar responsibility, and to Don Boersma, Paul Fetters, Bruce and Pat Cardwell and their committees for their help at February's concert.

AJOURNED: 9:12 P.M.

FEELING LEFT OUT?

Join your neighbors at those Thursday meetings in The Old Caboose (see front page, top right) and you'll see that you're needed and appreciated in this block's promotional activities. There's a lot to be done to keep this old neighborhood going – and if doesn't all happen in your shop, apartment or business. They really need your help.

Get into the Swing of Spring

Come to Hansen's

Standard Printing Co.

For your Printing Needs

483-0339 35 E. Cross

$2000 DEPOT TOWN SIGN PROPOSED

Although the Association had hoped to get a response from the City on their signage proposal of three months ago, they went ahead and applied for a facade grant for their fourth priority, anyway.

The proposal is to paint an old fashioned style "Welcome to Depot Town" billboard on the westworks of the Follett house - far above the west windows of Paponetti's Pasta. Alex Suczek has provided a design which includes a Reading Railroad/Monopoly-type steam engine. Very Depot Townish.

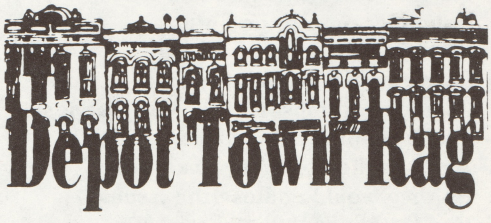
With City aproval, this painted-on-the-brick sign will echo Depot Exchange's south-facing masterpiece and help to reinstate an ancient commercial advertising tradition.

That same wall still holds vestiges of "Taylor Shirts," "Mayflower Storage," "Bull Durham Tobacco," "and a few long-faded and unreadable slogans. Welcome back. Sometimes the old ways are best.

WCA Washtenaw Council for the Arts

CITY FARCADE GRANT PROGRAM

The City Facade Grant Program saw other parts of the city, as well as Depot Towners, standing in line at City Hall to meet the February 20th deadline. By our count, at least nine Depot town projects were represented including DTA's proposal for a "Welcome to Depot Town" sign on the west wall of the Follett House.



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and in the enhancement of its business climate.

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

WINDOW PAINTING CONTINUES OLD TRADITION

The new window painting at T.H.E. MARKET, 19 East Cross, proves once again that window signs pay off. The traditional yellow lettering works both day and night, and still lets in plenty of light - and the gazes of interested clientele.

Window signs need not be approved by the City's building department or the Historic District Commission. They constitute window decoration and their worth is often misjudged or overlooked by inexperienced businesses.

Another interesting fact - businesses named for their owner (ie: James MacDonald's Antiques) do not need to register their name with the County, since they have already made the most public statement of who they are.

SPRING TRAIN DELAYED THREE MONTHS – Artrain May Have Company!

After three years of May promotional train trips, this spring won't see any such promotion. All that energy is being spent to put together our own train for the August Heritage Festival which will accompany the ARTRAIN's third visit to Ypsilanti's Depot Town.

Negotiations are under way with private railcar owners to bring club cars, diners and observation cars for the end-of-summer event. If all goes well, "Down By The Station" should be the biggest deaw at this year's Festival.

VALENTINE REFLECTIONS

At the risk of sounding like Dr. Seuss,
Here's my ode to the Old Caboose.
(Yes, this is a humble excuse.)
Don't suspect there's any ruse;
There's only one thing you can deduce,
I'm crazy about that Old Caboose.
No way can I play fast and loose,
I simply refuse to be obtuse.
I'll suffer any kind of abuse:
Hug a moose or kiss a goose,
Just for a glimpse of that Old Caboose.
Some people wished to paint it chartreuse
And I replied to them, "vamoose!"
As they would confuse the issues.
Red, bright red, like cherry juice,
Is the only hue for the Old Caboose.
They then agreed and called a truce
But asked if I'd consider puce.
That's when I threatened them with a noose.
You can mosey along on your old cayuse
Or paddle away in birch bark canoes,
But of all the conveyances now is use,
I still prefer the Old Caboose.

///Artrain

ARTRAIN ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Deborah Jahn, of the Michigan Artrain, reports that the staff will change their schedule to accomodate their favorite stop: Ypsilanti's Depot Town. When the Michigan spring/summer tour ends, they'll repair to Selfridge Air Force Base for August then stop here on the way to a fall tour beginning in Omaha, Nebraska.

Since last month's speculation over adding the nation's only train-installed travelling art gallery to the Festival, THE RAG has been inundated with volunteers:

CHAIR: City Council candidate Linda Hummel will co/chair with Rag editor Tom Dodd. They still need more help.

FINANCE: Approximately $4000 will be needed to bring the ARTRAIN to this siding. A plan to bring private diners, club and observation cars will create even more expense but is intended to create income via reservation-only catered dinners. Bids will be accepted from local restauranteurs.

GALLERY GUIDES & DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS: Ann Arbor art teachers rose to the occasion and volunteered to go back to school a week early with this project. They'll appreciate others' help, too.

EDUCATION: School is closed, and we'll just pick up who we can from the mobs at the Heritage Festival. No committee needed here.

PROMOTION: Festival planners and the Visitors & Convention Bureau will include the ARTRAIN in their advertising and press packages throughout the summer.

PROTOCOL: Here's the perfect place for the Festival Kick-Off party and the after-glow on Sunday evening. We'll just add to the tradition with two gorgeous private trains parked in the district.

Many other individuals have volunteered their general support and the next month will determine which people for which job. If you have not yet responded, but wish to help, write to DTA, c/o the Old Caboose, or attend the next Association meeting.

THE YPSILANTI FOOD CO-OP

The Ypsilanti Food Co-op presents "Cooking Encounters" saturday, March 8 from 1:30 until 5:30 P.M. at the co-op featuring recipes, samples and information for Japanese Cooking. Mary Scott from the EDEN company will be there with samples of sushi, miso soup, pickled daikon, and pickled ginger. The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is located at 312 North River Street in Depot Town. For more information, please call the co-op at 483-1520.

RAGTIME

"Wearin' Green
Down in Depot Town"

Aubree's

Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Aubree's Second Floor
Open Mike Night will be on Wednesday nights for March.

Eggs Milk Grains Produce Nuts Dried Fruits
Pasta Breads Juices Goats Milk Tempeh
Herbs Canned Goods Teas Spices
Yogurt Tofu Beans

YPSI FOOD COOP
312 N. River 483-1520
Sun. 12 - 4 Mon - Fri 10 - 7 Sat. 9 - 6

Miller's
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7548
WEEKLY SPECIALS
Celebrate St Patrick's Day
Take home a half gallon of
CHOCOLATE CHIP MINT
Always a Double Dip Special
for 75¢

Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
487-1510
bd
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING
and HEATING, INC.

483-3637
Our
Little Secret
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
23 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
In Historic Depot Town

WOW, what a sale!
NEW Lee & Levi jeans & cords
only $8.88
Painters' pants $4.88
Waist sizes 26-31
Now at "Our Little Secret"
23 East Cross Street.

The Cricket Box
a specialty gift & card shop
27 east cross street
COME SEE US!

IKE'S
DEPOT
TOWN
BARBER
SHOP
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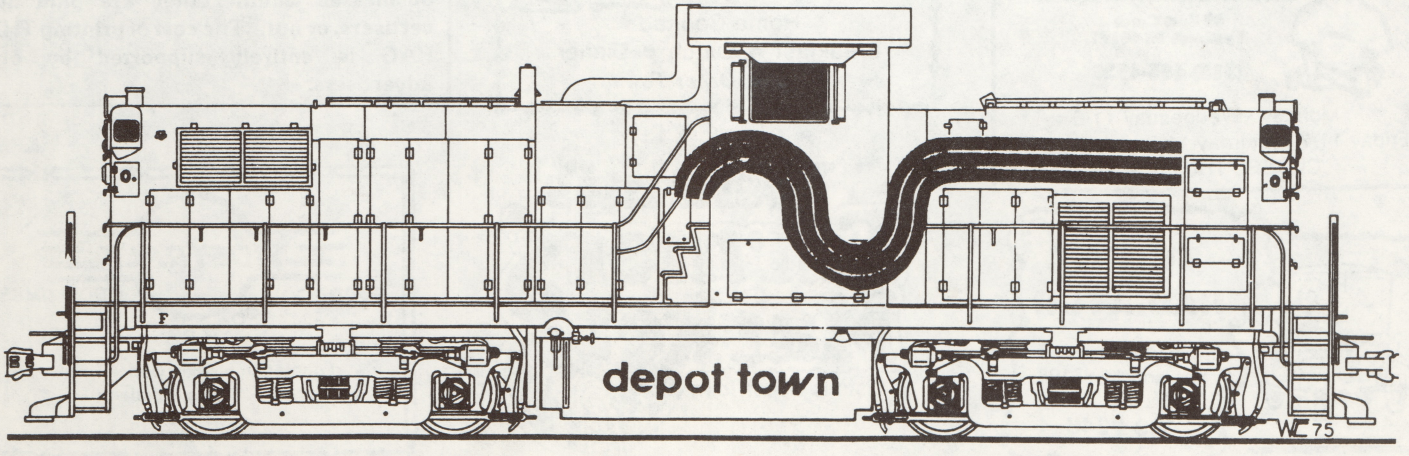
E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
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• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDS
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FRAMING OF OBJECTS
ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN